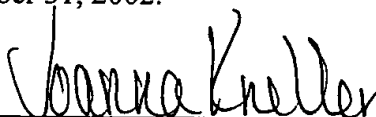




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The undersigned certifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 31, 2002.

  
Joanna L. Kneller

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
JOSE RAMON BOTELLA

Serial No. 09/669,476

Filed: September 25, 2000

For: NOVEL ACC SYNTHASE GENES

Group Art Unit: 1638

Examiner: Kallis, Russell

**RECEIVED**

JAN 07 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action dated December 6, 2002,<sup>1</sup> please amend the application as follows:

In The Specification:

On page 1, between original lines 3 and 4 please replace the current language which claims priority to earlier filed applications (added in the preliminary amendment filed with the application on September 25, 2000) with - This application is a continuation of U.S. Application

<sup>1</sup> Other than the *form of presentation of the amended claims*, this document is identical to the document previously executed by the Applicants on September 25, 2002 and received by the USPTO October 1, 2002.